Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a collagen-based matrix from a submucosa tissue source comprising:

treating ~~the~~ a submucosa tissue source that includes attached tunica muscularis tissue with a disinfecting agent to provide a disinfected submucosa tissue source; and

removing the collagen-based matrix from the disinfected submucosa tissue source.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the submucosa tissue source is from an alimentary tract of a mammal.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the mammal is a pig.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the submucosa tissue source is from the small intestine of a pig.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the disinfecting agent is an oxidizing agent.

32. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the disinfecting agent is a peroxy compound.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the disinfecting agent is an organic peroxy compound.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the disinfecting agent is a peracid.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the peracid is selected from the group consisting of peracetic acid, perpropionic acid and perbenzoic acid.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the peracid is peracetic acid.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein said treating includes treating the submucosa tissue source with a medium containing an alcohol and the peracid.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the alcohol has one to about six carbon atoms.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, propanols, and butanols.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the medium is an aqueous ethanol solution containing from about 0.1% to about 0.3% by volume peracetic acid.

42. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein said treating includes treating the submucosa tissue source with a medium containing the peracid and having a pH of about 2 to about 6.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the medium has a pH of about 2 to about 4.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the peracid is peracetic acid, and the medium contains about 0.1% to about 0.3% by volume of peracetic acid.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a collagen-based matrix from a submucosa tissue source, comprising:

providing a submucosa tissue source that includes attached tunica muscularis tissue, which has been treated with a disinfecting agent; and

removing the collagen-based matrix from said treated submucosa tissue source.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said submucosa tissue source is from a small intestine.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said disinfecting includes treating the submucosa tissue source with an oxidizing agent.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein said treating includes contacting the submucosa tissue source with an aqueous medium containing the oxidizing agent.

49. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein said treating includes contacting the submucosa tissue source with an aqueous medium containing a peroxy compound.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein the peroxy compound is a peracid.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the peracid is peracetic acid.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the medium comprises an alcohol.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

54. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the small intestine is from a pig.

Claims 55-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a collagen-containing matrix from a submucosa tissue source, comprising:

providing a submucosa tissue source including submucosa tissue and tunica muscularis tissue attached to the submucosa tissue;

wherein the submucosa tissue source is from urinary tract tissue;~~treating the submucosa tissue with a disinfecting agent;~~

separating the tunica muscularis tissue from the submucosa tissue;

recovering a collagen-containing matrix including the submucosa tissue separated from the tunica muscularis tissue;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix comprises the submucosa tissue and lamina propria tissue;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix exhibits an endotoxin level of less than 1 endotoxin unit per gram;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix exhibits a bioburden of less than 0.5 colony forming units per gram;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix retains glycosaminoglycans, glycoproteins, proteoglycans and growth factors from said tissue source, and said growth factors include basic fibroblast growth factor~~ from said tissue source~~; and

wherein said collagen-containing matrix exhibits a capacity to induce angiogenesis.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, ~~wherein said treating includes~~ also comprising contacting the submucosa tissue with an aqueous solution containing peracetic acid.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the submucosa tissue source is porcine.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (New) A collagen-containing matrix obtained by a process according to claim 64.

69. (New) A collagen-containing matrix obtained from a submucosa tissue source, comprising:

a collagen-containing matrix obtained from a submucosa tissue source from urinary tract tissue, the collagen-containing matrix including submucosa tissue and lamina propria tissue from the tissue source, wherein the submucosa tissue has been separated from tunica muscularis tissue that was present in the submucosa tissue source;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix exhibits an endotoxin level of less than 1 endotoxin unit per gram;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix exhibits a bioburden of less than 0.5 colony forming units per gram;

wherein said collagen-containing matrix retains glycosaminoglycans, glycoproteins, proteoglycans and growth factors from said tissue source, and said growth factors include basic fibroblast growth factor; and

wherein said collagen-containing matrix exhibits a capacity to induce angiogenesis.

70. (New) A method for treating a patient, comprising:

providing a collagen-containing matrix according to claim 69; and

treating a partial or full thickness dermal wound of the patient with the collagen-containing matrix.